



# The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

God's peace be with you as you gather around His holy word.

hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things.  
Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no  
power over me. Amen

## Benedicamus and Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to  
everlasting life.

**C** Amen

Play Track 3  

## Hymn: In Thee Is Gladness

LSB 818

- In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- Since He is ours, We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory  
With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ Box 607-108 St. David St. ~ Mitchell, ON ~ N0K 1N0 ~ (519)348-9082

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**L** Leader **C** Family/Congregation **A** All

## Opening Versicles

**L** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,

**C** have mercy and hear us.

## Lord's Prayer

**A** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

**A** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Play Track 1  

## Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809

- Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960  
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### Isaiah 44:6–8

*Isaiah 44:6–8*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

### Romans 8:18–27

*Romans 8:18–27*

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

*Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather

them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ . . .

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Play Track 2  

**Pastor's Message:** Growing With Weeds

**Précis:** While we long for Christ's harvest, we nonetheless wait with Him who is patient, until everything He's sown is ready.

### Prayers

- L** Show us Your steadfast Love, O Lord
- C** and grant us Your salvation
- L** Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### Luther's Morning Prayer

**A** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

**A** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your